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10/772,484	02/05/2004	John Galen Scudder	1370.002US1	4988

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EXAMINER	
CHOU, ALBERT T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2616	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/772,484	SCUDDER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert T. Chou	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *05 February 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-17, 23-26, 28, 30-33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,999,454 to Crump.

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Crump teaches in a routing system having a plurality of route processors, including a first and a second route processor, a method of determining a route to a destination in a network **[Fig. 12]** and a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method **[col. 11, line 50 – col. 12 line 63]**, the method comprising:

partitioning a global routing information base (gRIB) such that it executes as processes on two or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; partitioning a routing information base on route processors ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9]** ;

establishing a first routing protocol process on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. establishing a OSPF process on route processors ST6, ST8 and ST9; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

establishing a second routing protocol process on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. establishing a BGP process on the processor ST8; col. 9, lines 37-44, col. 9, line 44- col. 10, line 31]**;

determining, using the first routing protocol process, a route to a destination in a given network **[Fig. 12; DRTM on ST6 determines that a route installed in RT1 is the new local best route to a destination in a network; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

storing the route in a routing information base (RIB) associated with the first routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; DRTM installs the routes associated with the OSPF protocol in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

updating the gRIB with the route stored in the routing information base (RIB) associated with the first routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; The DRTM creates an Update Route message and broadcast the Update Route message over the control bus; col. 9, lines 25-35]**; and

writing the route from the gRIB to the routing information base (RIB) associated with the second routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; The DTRM on ST8 installs a route associated with BGP in the routing table RT2; col. 9, lines 37-44, col. 9, line 44- col. 10, line 31]**.

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 14, Crump teaches partitioning the gRIB such that it executes as processes on the first and second route processors includes storing, as a function of a prefix range, a first portion of the gRIB in memory of the first route processor and a second portion of the gRIB in memory of the second route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing , as a function of prefix range, in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**.

Regarding claims 3, 9 and 15, Crump teaches partitioning the gRIB such that it executes as processes on two or more of the route processors further includes storing a directory of prefix ranges in memory of the route processors associated with each routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; storing a directory of prefix ranges associated with route type, i.e. BGP, IS-IS, OSPT and RIP, in RT1 – RT3 on ST6-ST9; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**.

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Crump teaches in a routing system having a plurality of route processors, including a first and a second route processor, a method of determining a route to a destination in a network **[Fig. 12]** and a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method **[col. 11, line 50 – col. 12 line 63]**, the method comprising:

partitioning a global routing information base (gRIB) such that it executes as processes on two or more route processors **[Fig. 12; partitioning a routing**

information base on router processors CP2, ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9], wherein partitioning includes storing a first portion of the gRIB in memory of the first route processor and a second portion of the gRIB in memory of the second route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing prefixes in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**;

establishing a routing protocol process on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. establishing a OSPF process on route processors ST6, ST8 and ST9; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

determining, using the routing protocol process, a route to a destination in a given network **[Fig. 12; DRTM on ST6 determines that a route installed in RT1 is the new local best route to a destination in a network; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

storing the route in a routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; DRTM installs the routes associated with the OSPF protocol in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 25-35]**; and

updating the gRIB with the route stored in the routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; The DRTM creates an Update Route message and broadcast the Update Route message over the control bus; col. 9, lines 25-35]**, wherein updating includes writing the route to one or more of the portions of the gRIB **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST8 receives the Update Route message and installs the routes in Routing Table RT1 on ST8; col. 9, lines 47-51]**.

Regarding claims 13 and 17, Crump teaches in a routing system having a plurality of route processors, including a first and a second route processor, a method of determining a route to a destination in a network **[Fig. 12]** and a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method **[col. 11, line 50 – col. 12 line 63]**, the method comprising:

providing a routing protocol process and a routing protocol routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6 provides a routing protocol process and a routing table RT1 associated with the OSPF protocol; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 65]**;

partitioning a routing protocol process as a function of prefix range such that it executes as partitioned routing protocol processes on two or more route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing prefixes in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**, wherein partitioning includes:

separating the routing protocol routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process into a first portion and a second portion, wherein separating is a function of the prefix range associated with a route **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing , as a function of prefix range, in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**;

storing the first portion of the routing protocol RIB in memory of the first route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6, ST8 and ST9 maintain Routing Table RT1; col. 8, lines 5-16]**; and

storing the second portion of the routing protocol RIB in memory of the second route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6 and ST8 maintain Routing Table RT2; col. 8, lines 5-16]**;

establishing a global routing information base (RIB) process on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 13; DTRM establishes Global Multicast Tables, Global Tables, VRF Tables, VPN database on a route processor]**;

determining, via one of the partitioned routing protocol processes, a new route to a destination in a given network **[Fig. 12; DRTM on ST6 determines that a route installed in RT1 is the new local best route to a destination in a network; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

storing the new route in one of the portions of the routing protocol RIB **[Fig. 12; DRTM installs the routes associated with the OSPF protocol in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 25-35]**, wherein storing is a function of the prefix range associated with the new route **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing prefixes in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**;

determining if the gRIB should be updated with the new route; and if the gRIB should be updated with the new route, updating the gRIB with the new route **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST8 receives the Update Route message and installs the routes in Routing Table RT1 on ST8; col. 9, lines 47-51]**.

Regarding claim 16, Crump teaches querying each partitioned routing protocol process**[Fig. 12; The DRTM creates an Update Route message and broadcast the Update Route message over the control bus; col. 9, lines 25-35]** to determine if it handles the route to be stored **[Fig. 12; e.g. The DRTM on ST7 receives the Update Route message from ST6. Because ST7 does not maintaining Routing Table RT1, the DRTM discards the Update Route message ; col. 11, lines 6-9]**.

Regarding claim 23, Crump teaches a routing system for routing according to a routing protocol, the routing system comprising:

a plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; Route processors, ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9]**, including a first and a second route processor **[Fig. 12; Route processors, ST6, and ST8 or ST9]**;

a global routing information base (gRIB) process executing on two or more of the plurality of route processors **[Figs. 12-13; A DRTM process executes Global Tables and VRF Tables on route processors ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9]**, wherein the gRIB process stores a portion of the gRIB in memory of the first route processor and a portion of the gRIB in memory of the second processor **[Figs 12-13; The DRTM stores a portion of Global & VRF Tables in RT1 on ST6 and in RT1 on ST8 and ST9; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**; and

a routing protocol process executing on one or more of the route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. An OSPF protocol process on processors ST6, ST8 and ST9; col. 9,**

lines 25-35], wherein the routing protocol process applies a policy corresponding to the routing protocol to select routes according to rules of the routing protocol **[Fig. 12; The OSPF protocol process on processors ST6, ST8 and ST9 selects a route according to OSPF protocol; col. 9, lines 25-35]** and downloads the selected routes to the global RIB process for storage in the gRIB **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST6 determines that a route is the new local best route to a destination in a network and installs the routes associated with the OSPF protocol in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 25-35]**.

Regarding claim 24, Crump teaches the routing protocol process includes a directory of prefix ranges for identifying the portion of the gRIB containing a desired route **[Prefix ranges in Routing Tables RT1-RT3 contains a desired route; col. 8, line 20 – col. 9, line9]**.

Regarding claims 25, 31 and 32, Crump teaches the global RIB process stores a portion of a global RIB in memory of the first route processor as a function of a prefix range **[Figs. 12-13; The DRTM stores a portion of Global & VRF Tables in RT1 on ST6 as a function of a prefix range. e.g. 192.32.13.0, 192.32.14.0, 192.32.15.0; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]** and wherein the global RIB process stores a directory of prefix ranges in each route processor associated with the routing protocol process **[Figs. 12-13; The prefix ranges are associated with each routing protocol process.**

e.g. 192.32.13.0 is associated with OSPF, 192.32.14.0 with BGP and 192.32.15.0 with OSPF; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9].

Regarding claims 26, 28, 33 and 35, Crump teaches the routing protocol process stores portions of a routing protocol RIB associated with the routing protocol process in memory of two or more route processors **[Fig. 12; The DTRM stores routing tables RT1 on ST6, ST8 and ST9]**, wherein the portions are partitioned as a function of a second prefix range **[Fig. 12; e.g. the routing table is partitioned as a function of prefix ranges of 192.32.13.0 for OSPF, 192.32.14.0 for BGP and 192.32.15.0 for OSPF; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**.

Regarding claim 30, Crump teaches a routing system capable of routing according to a first and a second routing protocol, the routing system comprising:

a plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; Route processors, ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9]**, including a first, a second and a third route processor **[Fig. 12; Route processors, ST6, ST8 and ST9]**;

a global routing information base (RIB) process executing on the first and second route processors **[Figs. 12-13; A DRTM process executing Global Tables and VRF Tables on route processors ST6, ST7, ST8 and ST9]**, wherein the global RIB process stores a portion of a global RIB in memory of each of the first and second route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. The DRTM stores a portion of Global & VRF Tables in RT1 on ST6 and in RT1 on ST8 and ST9; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**;

a first routing protocol process executing on the third route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. An OSPF protocol is executed on ST9; col. 9, lines 1-9]**, wherein the first routing protocol process applies a policy corresponding to the first routing protocol to select routes according to rules of the first routing protocol **[Fig. 12; The OSPF protocol process on ST9 selects a route according to the OSPF protocol; col. 9, lines 54-60]** and downloads the selected routes to the global RIB process for storage in the global RIB **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST9 determines that a route is the new remote best route and installs the route in the routing table RT1 on ST9; col. 9, lines 54-60]**; and

a second routing protocol process executing on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. A BDP protocol is executed on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, lines 20-65]**, wherein the second routing protocol process applies a policy corresponding to the second routing protocol to select routes according to rules of the second routing protocol **Fig. 12; The BGP protocol process on ST8 selects a route according to the BGP protocol; col. 8, lines 20-65]** and downloads the selected routes to the global RIB process for storage in the global RIB **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST8 determines that the route is the new local non-best route and installs the route in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 37-44]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,999,454 to Crump.

Regarding claims 18 and 22, Crump teaches in a routing system having a plurality of route processors, including a first and a second route processor, a method of determining a route to a destination in a network **[Fig. 12]** and a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method **[col. 11, line 50 – col. 12 line 63]**, the method comprising:

providing a routing protocol process and a routing protocol routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process **[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6 provides a routing protocol process and a routing table RT1 associated with the OSPF protocol; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 65]**;

partitioning a routing protocol process such that the routing protocol process executes as partitioned routing protocol processes on two or more route processors **[Fig. 12; The routing table includes attributes such as routing table type as VPN; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 16; Fig. 13; VPN Database, Virtual Multicast Tables and Virtual Routing & Forwarding VRF Tables on ST6-ST8]**, wherein partitioning includes:

separating the routing protocol routing information base (RIB) associated with the routing protocol process into a first portion and a second portion **[Fig. 12; e.g. RT1 is stored on ST6, ST8 and ST6];**

storing the first portion of the routing protocol RIB in memory of the first route processor **[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6, ST8 and ST9 maintain Routing Table RT1; col. 8, lines 5-16]**; and

storing the second portion of the routing protocol RIB in memory of the second route processor**[Fig. 12; e.g. ST6 and ST8 maintain Routing Table RT2; col. 8, lines 5-16]**;;

establishing a global routing information base (RIB) process on one or more of the plurality of route processors **[Fig. 13; e.g. Global Multicast Tables, Global Tables]**;

determining, via one of the partitioned routing protocol processes, a new route to a destination in a given network **[Fig. 12; DRTM on ST6 determines that a route installed in RT1 is the new local best route to a destination in a network; col. 9, lines 25-35]**;

storing the new route in one of the portions of the routing protocol RIB **[Fig. 12; DRTM installs the routes associated with the OSPF protocol in the routing table RT1; col. 9, lines 25-35]**, wherein storing is a function of the prefix range associated with the new route **[Fig. 12; e.g. storing prefixes in Routing Table RT1 on ST6, ST8 & ST9 and Routing Tables RT2 on ST6 and ST8; col. 8, line 5 – col. 9, line 9]**;

determining if the gRIB should be updated with the new route; and if the gRIB should be updated with the new route, updating the gRIB with the new route **[Fig. 12; The DRTM on ST8 receives the Update Route message and installs the routes in Routing Table RT1 on ST8; col. 9, lines 47-51]**.

Crump does not expressly teach separating is a function of the virtual private network associated with a route.

However, Crump teaches a DTRM includes a VPN database and a Virtual Routing & Forwarding Table **[Fig. 13]** and a ST card, which is a route processor and wherein the DTRM resides, is configured based on an number of attributes, including a routing table type based on VPN, a routing table instance and a routing protocol **[col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that a RIB or routing tables in a route processor may be configured based on the VPN attribute as disclosed by Crump, since the DTRM comprises all routes information and VPN database.

The motivation would be to enable the DTRM on the ST card/route processor to support the network routing based on the VPN in order to improve the router performance in today's IP backbone services.

Regarding claim 21, Crump teaches querying each partitioned routing protocol process**[Fig. 12; The DRTM creates an Update Route message and broadcast the Update Route message over the control bus; col. 9, lines 25-35]** to determine if it

handles the route to be stored **[Fig. 12; e.g. The DRTM on ST7 receives the Update Route message from ST6. Because ST7 does not maintaining Routing Table RT1, the DRTM discards the Update Route message ; col. 11, lines 6-9]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 19, 20, 27, 29, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,999,454 to Crump.

Regarding claims 4, 10, 19, 27 and 34, Crump teaches each limitation set forth in its respective parent claim.

Crump does not expressly teach the portion of the global RIB in memory of the first route processor includes all routes for a first VPN and wherein the portion of the global RIB in memory of the second route processor includes all routes for a second VPN.

However, Crump teaches a DTRM includes a VPN database and a Virtual Routing & Forwarding Table **[Fig. 13]** and a ST card, which is a route processor and wherein the DTRM resides, is configured based on an number of attributes, including a

routing table type based on VPN, a routing table instance and a routing protocol **[col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that a RIB or routing tables in a route processor may be configured based on the VPN attribute as disclosed by Crump, since the DTRM comprises all routes information and VPN database.

The motivation would be to enable the DTRM on the ST card/route processor to support the network routing based on the VPN in order to improve the router performance in today's IP backbone services.

Regarding claims 5, 11, 20, 29 and 36, Crump teaches each limitation set forth in its respective parent claim. Crump teaches the routing protocol process stores portions of a routing protocol RIB associated with the routing protocol process in memory of two or more route processors **[Fig. 12; e.g. RT1 is stored on ST6, ST8 and ST6]**.

Crump does not expressly teach the portions are partitioned as a function of virtual private network (VPN).

However, Crump teaches a DTRM includes a VPN database and a Virtual Routing & Forwarding Table **[Fig. 13]** and a ST card, which is a route processor and wherein the DTRM resides, is configured based on an number of attributes, including a routing table type based on VPN, a routing table instance and a routing protocol **[col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 9]**

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that a RIB or routing tables in a route processor may be configured based on the VPN attribute as disclosed by Crump, since the DTRM comprises all routes information and VPN database.

The motivation would be to enable the DTRM on the ST card/route processor to support the network routing based on the VPN in order to improve the router performance in today's IP backbone services.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No. 7,023,808 to Ball et al. disclose "System And Method For Distributing Route Selection In An Implementation Of A Routing Protocol"
- US Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0074001 by Mattes et al. disclose "System And Method For Local Packet Transport Services Within Distributed Routers"
- US Patent No. 7,054,311 to Norman et al. disclose "Method And Apparatus For Storage And Processing Of Routing Information"

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert T. Chou whose telephone number is 571-272-6045. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi H. Pham, can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Albert T. Chou
January 23, 2008 AC

CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1/30/08